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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "08/02/1994 - Journalism Department Reaccredited.pdf" (1994). 1994. 446.
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94-192

AUG 02 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT REACCREDITED

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's journalism department has been reaccredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) for another six years.

The reaccreditation follows a 10-month self-study covering 12 areas of concentration: administration, budget, curriculum, student records/advising, instruction, faculty, internships, equipment, faculty scholarships and research, public service, graduates/alumni, and minority and female representation.

Of the 450 college and university journalism programs in the country, Eastern's program is among 90 that are accredited by ACEJMC.

"The reaccreditation is a stamp of approval for Eastern and shows that our department can pass rigorous standards set by professional journalists. I'm especially proud of the faculty for successfully completing the self-study. The evaluation was a reflection of the superiority of our faculty and students," said John David Reed, journalism department chair.

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Eastern's journalism program has been accredited by ACEJMC since 1982 and will not be up for review again until the 1999-2000 academic year.

ACEJMC praised the journalism program's strong unit head who had gained the confidence and respect of the faculty, students and administration; the practical experience gained through internships; the outstanding advising which helps students achieve national reputation for editorial and technological excellence; the outreach to high schools, community colleges and the newspaper industry; the excellent recruiting and retention of minority students; and an \$11 million renovation to the building that houses the journalism department and student publications.

Some of Eastern's 160 journalism majors have placed each year in the William Randolph Hearst Foundation awards program; graduates go on to become reporters, editors and to work in journalism related fields.

ACEJMC found the 13 faculty members to be academically and professionally qualified for departmental demands and for their primary responsibilities of teaching, research and service.